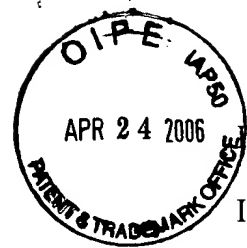


AF/1641



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5291**
Mie TAKAHASHI et al. : Docket No. 2001-1464A
Serial No. 09/937,730 : Group Art Unit 1641
Filed January 8, 2002 : Examiner Gary W. Counts
CHROMATOGRAPHY MEDIUM : **Mail Stop AF**
AND ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37. CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1641

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of January 24, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 5, 12, 27, 31, 41, 45, 53 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of Nanbu et al. or Uenoyama et al. is respectfully traversed.

Discussion of Applicants' Invention

Applicants' claim 5 recites a chromatography medium which comprises a reactive layer on which at least one reactive component for a chromatographic analysis is immobilized, wherein the reactive layer includes a surface active agent that is solidified